United States Courts Southern District of Texas FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

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MAR 0 6 2025

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court

KARINA F. JAMES, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ALMARN JAMES DOWNES, DECEASED,

Plaintiff

v.

AIRBNB, INC., AIRBNB PAYMENTS, INC., AND MARTINE,

Defendants.

NO. 4:24-cv-03841

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO DENY DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS AND REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO SERVE DEFENDANTS

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Plaintiff Karina F. James, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Almarn James Downes, Deceased (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), and files this Motion to Deny Defendants' Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Serve and requests an extension of time to effectuate service. Plaintiff further opposes any attempt by Defendants to compel arbitration due to the lack of contractual privity between the parties and the necessity of discovery in this matter. In support, Plaintiff states as follows:

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

- 1. Defendants Airbnb, Inc. and Airbnb Payments, Inc. (collectively, "Airbnb Defendants") seek dismissal under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) for failure to serve them within 90 days. However, Defendants' own conduct—including their removal of this case to federal court on October 9, 2024, active participation in litigation proceedings, and attendance at the January 23, 2025 pretrial conference—demonstrates clear notice and awareness of this lawsuit, negating any alleged prejudice due to delayed service.
- 2. Plaintiff further requests an extension of time to serve Defendants pursuant to **Rule 4(m)**, which grants the Court discretion to extend service deadlines where appropriate.
- 3. Additionally, Plaintiff opposes any attempt to compel arbitration, as there is no contractual privity

between Plaintiff and Airbnb Defendants. Further, discovery is essential to determine Defendants' liability for **negligence and wrongful death** in a high-crime area where the decedent was murdered at an Airbnb rental property.

II. <u>DEFENDANTS HAVE WAIVED ANY SERVICE OBJECTION THROUGH</u> ACTIVE LITIGATION PARTICIPATION

- 4. **Defendants removed this case on October 9, 2024**, signifying their acknowledgment and acceptance of federal jurisdiction. *See Exhibit A: Notice of Removal.*
- 5. Active participation in litigation may waive service objections under Lorraine v. Markel Am. Ins. Co., 241 F.R.D. 534, 539 (D. Md. 2007). Defendants have engaged in litigation by:
 - 1. Filing motions,
 - 2. Attending the January 23, 2025 pretrial conference, and
 - 3. Communicating with Plaintiff regarding procedural matters.
- 6. Courts disfavor dismissal when a defendant had actual notice and suffered no prejudice from service delays. Here, Defendants have long been aware of the lawsuit and have suffered no harm due to the delay.

III. PLAINTIFF REQUESTS AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO SERVE DEFENDANTS

- 7. Under Rule 4(m), courts have discretion to extend the time for service rather than dismiss a case outright. Given Defendants' awareness and involvement in litigation, an extension is appropriate.
- 8. Plaintiff has acted diligently in prosecuting this case, and any delay in service does not warrant dismissal. The Court should allow Plaintiff a reasonable time to complete service.

IV. <u>DEFENDANTS CANNOT COMPEL ARBITRATION DUE TO LACK OF</u> <u>CONTRACTUAL PRIVITY</u>

- 9. Defendants may seek to compel arbitration under Airbnb's Terms of Service. However, Plaintiff was not a party to any contract with Airbnb, and there is no evidence that the decedent agreed to an arbitration clause.
- 10. A party cannot be compelled to arbitration without an enforceable arbitration agreement. AT&T Techs., Inc. v. Commc'ns Workers of Am., 475 U.S. 643, 648 (1986).
- 11. Additionally, this case requires fact-intensive discovery, including Airbnb's security policies, crime awareness, and host communications, which cannot be adequately addressed through arbitration. Courts have denied arbitration in cases involving wrongful death claims where significant discovery is needed.

V. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

- 1. **Deny Defendants' Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Serve**, as Defendants had actual notice and actively participated in litigation;
- 2. Grant Plaintiff an extension of time to serve Defendants pursuant to Rule 4(m);

- 3. Deny any motion to compel arbitration, given the lack of contractual privity and need for discovery; and
- 4. Grant Plaintiff such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

THE LAW OFFICE OF OSAYUKI OGBEIDE

By: /s/ Osayuki M. Ogbeide Osayuki M. Ogbeide State Bar No. 24121175 1401 Lavaca St. #1214 Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 661-1228

Email: omu@takeleadlaw.com

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 5th, 2025, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was filed via the Court's CM/ECF system, which will serve all counsel of record.

/s/ Osayuki M. Ogbeide Osayuki M. Ogbeide

Exhibit A

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

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KARINA F. JAMES, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ALMARN JAMES DOWNES, DECEASED,

Plaintiff

v.

AIRBNB, INC., AIRBNB PAYMENTS, INC., AND MARTINE,

Defendants.

NO.

DEFENDANTS AIRBNB, INC. AND AIRBNB PAYMENTS, INC.'S NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1446, Defendants Airbnb, Inc. ("Airbnb") and Airbnb Payments, Inc. ("Airbnb Payments") hereby give notice of removal of this action, captioned *James v. Airbnb, Inc., et al.*, Cause No. 2024-67530, from the 55th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), Airbnb and Airbnb Payments provide the following statement of the grounds for removal:

BACKGROUND

- 1. On October 1, 2024 Plaintiff Karina F. James, individually and as a personal representative on behalf of the Estate of Almarn James Downes ("Plaintiff"), filed her Original Petition and Jury Demand ("Petition") in the 55th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas, bearing Cause No. 2024-67530, against Airbnb and Airbnb Payments.
- 2. In compliance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a) and L.R. 81, a true and correct copy of the Petition, all process, pleadings, and orders served upon Airbnb and Airbnb Payments is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. A copy of the State Court docket is attached as **Exhibit 2** and the List of Counsel is attached as **Exhibit 3**.
 - 3. Airbnb and Airbnb Payments have not yet been served in this matter.

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VENUE AND JURISDICTION

- 4. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 84(a), 1391, 1441(a), and 1446(a) because the 55th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas, where the Petition was filed, is a state court within the Houston Division of the Southern District of Texas.
- 5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) because (1) there is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and Defendants; (2) the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interests and costs; and (3) all other requirements for removal have been satisfied.

I. THERE IS COMPLETE DIVERSITY OF CITIZENSHIP BETWEEN PLAINTIFF AND DEFENDANTS.

6. There is complete diversity of citizenship here because Plaintiff is a citizen of the United Kingdom, and Defendants are citizens of Delaware, California, and Texas. The diversity requirement is satisfied where, as here, an action "is between . . . citizens of a State and citizens or subjects of a foreign state." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(2).

A. Plaintiff Is a Citizen of the United Kingdom.

- 7. For purposes of diversity jurisdiction, the personal representative of an estate has the same citizenship of the decedent. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(2). Decedent Almarn James Downes was domiciled in and thus a citizen of the United Kingdom. Ex.1, Pet. ¶ 14. As the personal representative of Decedent's estate, Plaintiff is therefore a citizen of the United Kingdom.
- 8. In her personal capacity, Plaintiff Karina F. James is domiciled in and therefore a citizen of the United Kingdom. *Id.* ¶ 2.

B. Defendants are Citizens of California, Delaware, and Texas.

- 9. For purposes of diversity jurisdiction, a corporation is "a citizen of every State and foreign state by which it has been incorporated and of the State or foreign state where it has its principal place of business." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).
- 10. Airbnb is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in California. **Exhibit 4**, Chauvet Decl. ¶ 2. Therefore, Airbnb is a citizen of California and Delaware.
 - 11. Airbnb Payments is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in

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California. Id. ¶ 3. Therefore, Airbnb Payments is a citizen of California and Delaware.

12. Upon information and belief, Defendant "Martine" is domiciled in and therefore a citizen of Texas. See Pet. ¶ 4 (alleging that Martine is "owner/host" of a property in Houston and "may be served at this location"), ¶ 17 (similar); Tex. R. Civ. Proc. 106, 107 (authorizing service by hand or via certified mail where defendant signs return receipt); Volentine v. Bechtel, Inc., 209 F.3d 719 (5th Cir. 2000) ("unrebutted allegations of citizenship in a removal petition based on information and belief is sufficient to satisfy the removal statute").

II. THE AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY EXCEEDS \$75,000.

- 13. "[A] defendant's notice of removal need include only a plausible allegation that the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional threshold." *Dart Cherokee Basin Operating Co., LLC v. Owens*, 574 U.S. 81, 89 (2014). "[W]hen a defendant seeks federal-court adjudication, the defendant's amount-in-controversy allegation should be accepted when not contested by the plaintiff or questioned by the court." *Id.* at 87.
- 14. Plaintiff alleges that her son died in a shooting at Martine's property and "seeks monetary relief over \$10 Million Dollars." Ex. 1, Pet. ¶ 7, 15.
- 15. Plaintiff brings causes of action against all defendants for negligence, premises liability, gross negligence, and wrongful death. *Id.* ¶¶ 21-29. She seeks economic and non-economic compensatory damages, along with exemplary damages. *Id.* ¶¶ 30-32.
- 16. "[I]t is facially apparent that [a] wrongful death claim satisfies the amount in controversy requirement." *Menendez v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 364 Fed. App'x 62, 67 (5th Cir. 2010).

III. ALL OTHER REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS ARE SATISFIED.

A. The Notice of Removal Is Timely.

17. This Notice of Removal is timely filed. Airbnb and Airbnb Payments have not yet been served in this matter. See 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(1).

B. All Properly Joined and Served Defendants Consent to Removal.

18. For purposes of removal based on diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b), all defendants who have been properly joined and served must

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consent to removal.

19. On information and belief, no other defendant in this action has been served with

the Petition.

20. By filing this Notice of Removal, Airbnb and Airbnb Payments do not waive any

defense that may be available to them and reserve all such defenses. If any question arises as to the

propriety of the removal to this Court, Airbnb and Airbnb Payments request the opportunity to

present a brief and oral argument in support of their position that this case has been properly

removed.

C. **Notice of Removal**

21. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), Airbnb and Airbnb Payments will give written

notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal to all adverse parties of record in this matter, and will

file a copy of this Notice with the clerk of the state court.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, Airbnb and Airbnb Payments hereby remove this action from the 55th

Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas to the United States District Court for the Southern

District of Texas, Houston Division.

Dated: October 9, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John V. Anaipakos

John V. Anaipakos, Attorney-in-charge

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Attorneys for Defendants

Airbnb, Inc. and Airbnb Payments, Inc.

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Exhibit 1

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Marilyn Burgess - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 92629141

By: Monica Jackson Filed: 10/1/2024 1:19 AM

10/1/2024 1:19 AM

2024-67530 / Court: 55

CAUSENO.		
KARINA F. JAMES, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ALMARN JAMES DOWNES,	000 000 000 000	IN THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DECEASED, Plaintiff v.	100 cm cm cm cm cm	DISTRICT COURT NO
AIRBNB, INC., AIRBNB PAYMENTS, INC., AND MARTINE, Defendants	an sos con an	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND JURY DEMAND

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Plaintiff Karina F. James, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Almarn James Downes, Deceased ("Plaintiff"), complaining of Airbnb, Inc., Airbnb Payments, Inc., Airbnb LLC (collectively, "Airbnb") and Martine ("Host") (together, "Defendants"), and files this Original Petition and Jury Demand, and respectfully shows the Court the following:

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DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN

Plaintiffs intend to conduct discovery under Level 3, and hereby motion this Court to issue a
discovery control plan tailored expeditiously, given the gravity of this case. See TEX. R. CIV. P. 190.4.
Plaintiff, Karina F. James, who resides in London, United Kingdom brings this suit individually, and
on behalf of the family of the deceased and she may be reached through the undersigned counsel at
THE LAW OFFICE OF OSAYUKI OGBEIDE, UNITAT LLC.

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II.

PARTIES

- 2. Plaintiff Karina F. James is the mother of Almarn James Downes, Deceased, and is an individual residing at 88 Rabournemead Drive, UB5 6YI, London, United Kingdom. Plaintiff brings this suit individually and as the personal representative of the Estate of Almarn James Downes, Deceased.
- 3. **Defendant Airbnb, Inc.** is a foreign corporation registered to do business in Texas and conducts a substantial amount of business in Texas on a continuous and systematic basis. This defendant maintains no registered agent in Texas and is a nonresident under the Texas long-arm statute. Therefore, the agent for service of process on this defendant is the Texas Secretary of State. Per TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE § 17.044, this defendant may be served via the Texas Secretary of State, Service of Process, Secretary of State, 1019 Brazos Street, Austin, TX 78701.
- 4. **Defendant Martine** is an individual and owner/host of the Airbnb property located at 3411 Bremond Street, Houston, Texas 77004. Defendant may be served at this location.
- Defendant, Airbnb Payments, Inc., is a foreign corporation registered to do business in Texas and conducting a substantial amount of business in Texas on a continuous and systematic basis. This defendant may be served through its registered agent, Corporation Service Company d/b/a CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service Company, 211 E. 7th Street, Suite 620, Austin, TX 78701. Plaintiffs request a citation.
- 6. Plaintiffs additionally assert all rights and request all relief under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 28 and demand that this defendant answer in its true name, if it differs from that outlined above.

III.

JURISDICTION & VENUE

7. Plaintiff seeks monetary relief over \$10 Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00). This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this action, and the amount in controversy is above its minimum

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jurisdictional limits. All other jurisdictional prerequisites and conditions precedent to suit have been met.

- a. The wrongful death occurred in Houston, Harris County, Texas, so the venue is appropriate in Harris County District Court.
- 8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant(s) because all or a substantial part of the events giving rise to this dispute occurred in the State of Texas, and this lawsuit arises out of a tort Defendant(s) committed in the State of Texas. This Court otherwise has personal jurisdiction over Defendant(s) because they are citizens of Texas, conduct a substantial amount of business in the State of Texas, and/or have continuous, systematic contacts with the State of Texas.
- 9. Texas courts can exercise **personal jurisdiction** over Airbnb and its affiliates since they conduct significant business in Texas and the alleged wrongful death occurred within the state.
- 10. Venue is proper in Harris County, Texas pursuant to TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE § 15.002 because Harris County is where a substantial part of the events giving rise to this suit occurred Further, Harris County is a convenient forum and venue to Defendant(s), maintaining this litigation in this forum would not work a substantial injustice on Defendant(s), and the interests of justice dictate that this litigation be maintained in this forum and venue.
 - b. This case cannot be removed to federal court because no federal question exists, and diversity does not exist between the parties. See 28 U.S.C. § 1441.

IV.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

11. This is tragic case that arises from Defendants' gross negligence and decision to value profits over human life—which caused the death of Almarn James Downes and made it extremely difficult to conduct a viable criminal investigation. Case 4:24-cv-03841 Document 1-1 Filed on 10/09/24 in TXSD Page 5 of 13

- 12. Defendants, Airbnb, Inc. and Airbnb Payments, Inc. ("Airbnb Defendants"), are for-profit corporations in the business of facilitating, overseeing, managing, and profiting from rentals of properties between owners (known as "hosts") and renters. On information and belief, at all relevant times, these Defendants were engaged in a joint enterprise under all applicable law.
- 13. The Airbnb Defendants provide and use a digital "platform" to connect the hosts and renters via a smart device app and a website. Hosts pay Airbnb money to list rental properties on the platform and further pay other transactional costs associated with actual rentals. This includes, but is not limited to, insurance coverage payments (\$1 million liability coverage) and access to a "24-hour safety line" designed to provide "top-to-bottom protection for Hosts." The Airbnb Defendants further promulgate strict rules and regulations governing the rental properties, including those that relate to safety.
- 14. Almarn James Downes, born May 3, 1997, a 27-year-old British citizen, traveled to Houston, Texas, in May 2024 for a vacation and to explore his relocation plans. He rented an Airbnb property located at 3411 Bremond Street, Houston, Texas 77004 (location of incident), owned by Defendant Martine and listed on the Airbnb platform. The Airbnb renter may have been listed as a different name, however, at all times, Mr. Downes contributed to the rental costs or was specifically invited to the Airbnb property to congregate with his peers to pursue their vacation plans.
- 15. On May 27, 2024, at approximately 4:35 AM, Almam James Downes was brutally shot and killed at the Airbnb property during an attempted burglary according to investigative reports. The Houston Police Department Homicide Division, led by Detective Sergeant M. Arrington ("Detective"), confirmed the death of Almam James Downes. The Detective confirmed the lack of security measures led to Almam's demise. The Airbnb Host failed to use the "24-hour safety line" to mitigate the risk of harm or aid in the criminal investigation.
- 16. At the time of the shooting, there were approximately <u>25</u> individuals present at the Airbnb property (location of incident), in violation of Houston's occupancy limits and Airbnb's policies against large

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gatherings and events. The property is located in a high-crime area known for frequent burglaries and violent crime.

- 17. The Host "Martine", represents to the public at large their experience and expertise in the property rental business, stating they own and operate the property located at 3411 Bremond Street in Houston, Texas 77004¹.
- 18. Plaintiff was an invitee to the Airbnb property, which was publicly listed for rental on the Airbnb platform. At all relevant times, and pleading additionally and alternatively, the Airbnb Defendants were acting as agents of the Host "Martine" for the management, maintenance, care, representations, rental, advertisement, and health and safety of the subject residential property transacted for short-term rental property services.
- 19. At all relevant times, and pleading additionally and alternatively, the Host Defendants' actions lacked such ordinary care as to the plaintiff
- 20. Plaintiffs incorporate all other paragraphs by reference here fully.
 - i. Plaintiffs would show that Defendants, Airbnb, Inc., Airbnb LLC, and/or Airbnb Payments, Inc. (the "Airbnb Defendants") had ownership and/or control over the premises, instrumentality, and/or activity in question and thus had a duty to exercise the degree of care that a person of ordinary prudence would use to avoid harm under circumstances similar to those described herein.
 - ii. The property failed to meet basic safety standards. The front security camera was defective, the lighting was inadequate, and the fence surrounding the property was easily scalable, allowing intruders to enter and ultimately inflict serious, if not fatal harm onto the renters and visitors present at the Airbnb Property.
- iii. Defendants Airbnb and Host "Martine" failed to provide adequate security measures, violating Houston's safety regulations and Airbnb's internal safety guidelines. These failures directly and

https://www.airbrb.co.uk/rooms/11304941567117760117check_out=2024-07-

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proximately caused the death of Almarn James Downes. Leaving the family of the deceased helpless upon receiving notice of this tragic incident.

iv. As a result of defendants' reckless decision to maximize profits by foregoing basic safety practices, the family of Almarn, in particular Almarn's mother had to endure the unimaginable pain of losing her son, while he was in a foreign jurisdiction, making communication, access to information, and compensation for the family extremely difficult. Plaintiffs have been damaged far in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this Court, for which they now sue.

V.

CAUSES OF ACTION

NEGLIGENCE

- 21. Defendants owed a duty of care to provide a safe and secure environment for paying guests, invited guests and/or any reasonably foreseeable visitor, including Almam James Downes that could have been present at the Airbnb Property location in question. Defendants breached that duty by failing to:
 - Install and maintain functional security cameras;
 - Provide adequate lighting;
 - Install and secure, anti-climb fence;
 - Enforce Airbnb's safety guidelines for properties in high-crime areas.
 - a. Defendants knew or should have known about the high-crime rate in the area, specifically for Burglaries and the foreseeable risk of harm to guests. Their failure to take reasonable safety precautions constitutes negligence, directly causing Almam James Downes' wrongful death.

PREMISES LIABILITY

22. Defendants had control over the condition of the premises and failed to make the property safe for invitees like Almam James Downes. This failure resulted in an unsafe environment that led to his death.

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- 23. Under Texas premises liability law, property owners must take reasonable precautions to protect invitees from foreseeable harm, especially in high-crime areas.
- 24. Plaintiff(s) would show that their injuries and damages were proximately caused by the breaches of those duties by Defendants, which include, but are not limited to, the following acts and/or omissions: Failing to adequately warn of, or fix and correct, unreasonably dangerous conditions of which Defendants had actual or constructive knowledge thereof;
 - a. Failing to recognize and remediate hazards associated with safe maintenance, use of property;
 - b. Undertaking and assuming a duty to make safe dangerous conditions on the premises, and failing to use reasonable care in doing so;
 - c. Undertaking and assuming a duty to develop, implement, and enforce effective polices and procedures for safety at the premises, and failing to use reasonable care in doing so, to the detrimental reliance of Plaintiff and others;
 - d. Creating a dangerous condition and failing to prevent injury or fatal injury to others, where it reasonably appeared or should have appeared to Defendant that Plaintiffs, in exercise of their lawful rights, were likely to have been injured by creation of such dangerous situation, and failing to correct, make safe, or adequately warn about this condition;
 - e. Violating industry standards and best practices for safety measures, property maintenance, and short-term rental property operation;
 - f. Failing to properly hire, train, supervise, monitor and retain its employees, contractors, and agents;
 - g. Failing to act as an ordinarily prudent person would under the same or similar circumstances;
 - h. Such other and additional acts and omissions of negligence and gross negligence as revealed in discovery of this case.

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- 25. Plaintiffs further assert the doctrine of res ipsa loquitur.
- 26. Plaintiffs further allege that the acts or omissions described above, when viewed from Defendants' standpoint, involved an extreme degree of risk considering the probability and magnitude of the potential harm to Plaintiffs and others. Defendants had actual, subjective awareness of this risk but proceeded with conscious indifference to the rights, safety, and welfare of Plaintiffs and others.

GROSS NEGLIGENCE

- 27. Plaintiffs would further show that the fatal injuries and damages that Plaintiffs sustained as a result of the incident in question were caused by the gross negligence of Defendants acting by and through their employees, agents, officers and representatives in the course and scope of their employment for said Defendants. Plaintiffs would further show that Defendants ratified and failed to repudiate their agents' gross negligence.
- 28. Defendants' actions and omissions demonstrate a conscious disregard for the safety of guests. The lack of adequate security in a known high-crime area, combined with defective safety measures, constitutes gross negligence. Defendants' grossly negligent actions warrant the imposition of punitive damages under Chapter 41 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code.
 - i. As such, Defendants are grossly negligent and should be subjected to exemplary damages.
 - ii. Plaintiffs incorporate all other paragraphs by reference here fully.

WRONGFUL DEATH

29. Under Chapter 71 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, Plaintiff brings a wrongful death action on behalf of herself and the Estate of Almam James Downes. Plaintiff seeks compensation for the mental anguish, loss of companionship, and emotional and financial support that the deceased would have provided.

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- 30. Plaintiffs incorporate all other paragraphs by reference here fully. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' negligence and gross negligence described above, Almam James Downes, sustained fatal injuries and damages, for which his family seeks recovery through his mother, Plaintiff Karina F. James. These expenses include but are not limited to:
 - a. Funeral costs
 - b. Physical pain and suffering in the past and that will, in all reasonable probability, be suffered in the future;
 - c. Physical impairment in the past and that will, in all reasonable probability, be suffered in the future;
 - d. Mental anguish in the past and that will, in all reasonable probability, be suffered in the future;
 - e. Loss of earnings and/or earning capacity in the past and that will, in all probability, be incurred in the future;
 - f. Disfigurement in the past and future;
 - g. Cost of medical monitoring and prevention in the future;
 - h. Exemplary damages;
 - i. Prejudgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law; and
 - j. Any and all other damages to which Plaintiff shows entitlement in law or equity through the course of this proceeding.

VII.

DAMAGES FOR PLAINTIFF, KARINA F, JAMES, INDIVIDUALLY, AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ALMARN JAMES DOWNES, DECEASED

31. Plaintiff seeks the following damages:

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- Economic damages, including loss of earning capacity and financial support;
- Non-economic damages, including mental anguish, pain and suffering, and loss of companionship;
- Punitive damages for Defendants' gross negligence.
- Exemplary damages;
- Prejudgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law; and
- Any and all other damages to which Plaintiff shows entitlement in law or equity through the course
 of this proceeding.

VIII.

RULE 47 STATEMENT OF MONETARY RELIEF SOUGHT

32. Plaintiffs prefer that the jury determine the fair amount of compensation for Plaintiffs' damages. It is too early in this case to assess the full nature and scope of Plaintiffs' damages, and Plaintiffs place the decision regarding the amount of compensation to be awarded in the jury's hands. Rule 47 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, however, requires Plaintiff to provide a statement regarding the amount of monetary relief sought. Accordingly, Plaintiffs state that monetary relief of \$10,000,000, or over.

IX.

RULE 193.7 NOTICE

33. Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 193.7, Plaintiffs hereby give notice that Plaintiffs intend to use all discovery instruments produced in this case at trial. Such discovery documents include, but are not limited to, all documents Defendants have produced in response to Plaintiffs' written discovery requests.

XI.

DEMAND TO PRESERVE EVIDENCE AND RETURN ALMARN DOWNES BELONGINGS

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- 34. Plaintiffs hereby request and demand that Defendants and their agents, attorneys, and insurers preserve, maintain, and place a litigation hold on all documents, communications, tangible things, and electronically stored information that arise out of or relate to the incident made the basis of this suit.
- 35. Further, Plaintiffs demand that Defendants place a litigation hold on the subject premises and all cameras and other electronic recording devices at the premises and to not clean, repair, alter, change, or otherwise modify the premises.
- 36. Plaintiffs request the court to assist in returning all belongings reasonably identifiable to be owned and possessed by the Plaintiffs deceased, Almarn James Downes, which may include jewelry, clothing, etc.

XII.

DUTY TO DISCLOSE

37. Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 194, Plaintiffs hereby provide notice that Defendants are obligated to timely produce the information and material described in Rule 194. Plaintiff requests that Defendants disclose, within fifty (50) days of the service of this request, the information or material described in Rule 194.2, including the full name, contact information, and address of the Airbnb host and production of all applicable insurance policies covering the property for wrongful death claims.

XVI.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

38. Plaintiffs hereby demand a jury trial on this matter and tender the appropriate jury fee.

XVII.

PRAYER

1. Actual damages above the jurisdictional minimum of the Court, further outlined above;

Case 4:24-cv-03841 Document 1-1 Filed on 10/09/24 in TXSD Page 13 of 13

- 2. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law;
- 3. All costs of court;
- 4. Exemplary damages; and
- 5. All other relief to which Plaintiffs are justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

THE LAW FIRM OF OSAYUKI OGBEIDE

BY: /s/ Osayuki M. Ogbeide
Osayuki M. Ogbeide
State Bar No.: 24121175
UNITAT LLC
1401 Lavaca St., # 1214. Austin,
Texas 78701
Tel. (512) 661-1228
Osayuki.ogbeidelawfirm/@unitatile.com
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

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Exhibit 2

Case 4:24-cv-03841 Document 18 Filed on 03/06/25 in TXSD Page 24 of 29

Case 4:24-cv-03841 Document 1-2 Filed on 10/09/24 in TXSD Page 2 of 3

HCDistrictclerk.com

JAMES, KARINA F (INDIVIDUALLY AND AS

10/8/2024

PERSONAL REPR vs. AIRBNB INC

Cause: 202467530 CDI: 7 Court: 055

APPEALS

No Appeals found.

COST STATMENTS

No Cost Statments found.

TRANSFERS

No Transfers found.

POST TRIAL WRITS

No Post Trial Writs found.

ABSTRACTS

No Abstracts found.

SETTINGS

No Settings found.

SERVICE

No Service found.

NOTICES

No Notices found.

SUMMARY

CASE DETAILS **CURRENT PRESIDING JUDGE**

File Date 10/1/2024 Court 055th

Case (Cause) Location Address

201 CAROLINE (Floor: 9) HOUSTON, TX 77002 Case (Cause) Status Active - Civil Phone:8329272650

Case (Cause) Type PERSONAL INJ (NON-AUTO) JudgeName LATOSHA LEWIS PAYNE

Next/Last Setting Date N/A Court Type Civil

Jury Fee Paid Date N/A

ACTIVE PARTIES

Name Type Post Attorney

Jdgm

JAMES, KARINA F (INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PLAINTIFF - CIVIL OGBEIDE. PERSONAL REPR OSAYUKI MICHAEL

AIRBNB INC **DEFENDANT - CIVIL**

Case 4:24-cv-03841 Document 1-2 Filed on 10/09/24 in TXSD Page 3 of 3

ESTATE OF ALMARN JAMES DOWNES

PLAINTIFF - CIVIL

OGBEIDE,

(DECEASED)

OSAYUKI MICHAEL

AIRBNB PAYMENTS INC

DEFENDANT - CIVIL

MARTINE (AN INDIVIDUAL AND OWNER/HOST

DEFENDANT - CIVIL

OF AIRBNB PROPERTY)

3411 BREMOND STREET,, HOUSTON, TX 77004

INACTIVE PARTIES

No inactive parties found.

JUDGMENT/EVENTS

Date	Description	Order	Post Pgs	Volume	Filing	Person
		Signed	Jdgm	/Page	Attorney	Filing
10/1/2024	ORIGINAL PETITION		0		OGBEIDE, OSAYUKI MICHAEL	JAMES, KARINA F (INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PERSONAL REPR
10/1/2024	ORIGINAL PETITION		0		OGBEIDE, OSAYUKI MICHAEL	ESTATE OF ALMARN JAMES DOWNES (DECEASED)

DOCUMENTS

Number	Document	Post Date	Pgs
		Jdgm	
116747360	Plaintiffs Original Petition and Jury Demand	10/01/2024	12

Case 4:24-cv-03841 Document 1-3 Filed on 10/09/24 in TXSD Page 1 of 1

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

KARINA F. JAMES, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ALMARN JAMES DOWNES, DECEASED,

Plaintiff

v.

AIRBNB, INC., AIRBNB PAYMENTS, INC., AND MARTINE,

Defendants.

NO.

EXHIBIT 3

LIST OF ALL COUNSEL OF RECORD

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF KARINA F. JAMES:

Osayuki M. Ogbeide State Bar No. 24121175 1401 Lavaca St., # 1214 osayuki.ogbeidelawfirm@unitatllc.com Austin, Texas 78701

Tel: 512,661,1228

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS AIRBNB AND AIRBNB PAYMENTS:

John V. Anaipakos State Bar No. 00786976 Fed. No. 17762 janaipakos@omm.com 700 Louisiana Street, Suite 2900 Houston, Texas 77002-2796 Telephone: 832.254.1500 Facsimile: 832.254.1501 Case 4:24-cv-03841 Document 18 Filed on 03/06/25 in TXSD Page 27 of 29

Case 4:24-cv-03841 Document 1-4 Filed on 10/09/24 in TXSD Page 1 of 2

Exhibit 4

Case 4:24-cv-03841 Document 1-4 Filed on 10/09/24 in TXSD Page 2 of 2

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

KARINA F. JAMES, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ALMARN JAMES DOWNES, DECEASED.

Plaintiff

٧.

AIRBNB, INC., AIRBNB PAYMENTS, INC., AND MARTINE,

Defendants.

NO.

DECLARATION OF MONIQUE CHAUVET IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS AIRBNB INC.'S AND AIRBNB PAYMENTS, INC.'S NOTICE OF REMOVAL

- I, Monique Chauvet, hereby declare and state as follows:
- I am a Legal Investigations Manager at Airbnb, Inc. I submit this declaration in support of Defendants Airbnb, Inc. and Airbnb Payments, Inc.'s Notice of Removal. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below, and if called upon, I could and would testify to the truth thereof.
- 2. Airbnb, Inc. is incorporated in the State of Delaware, and its principal place of business is San Francisco, California.
- 3. Airbnb Payments, Inc. is incorporated in the State of Delaware, and its principal place of business is San Francisco, California.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on October 8, 2024, at Portland, Oregon.

Menigue Chauvet

JS 44 (Rev. 03/24) Case 4:24-cv-03841 Decement 45 V File Con 10/19/24 in TXSD Page 1 of 1

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

DEFENDANTS

KARINA F. JAMES			AIRBNB INC.; AIRBNB PAYMENTS, INC.; MARTINE					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff London, United Kin			adom					
•	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF (•	guom		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O			
				NOTE: IN LAND CO	ONDEMNATION CASES, USE TO OF LAND INVOLVED.	HE LOCATION OF		
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Num	ber)		Attorneys (If Known)				
Osayuki M. Ogbeide,	Law Office of Osay	uki Ogbeide, UNITA	ΛT	John V. Anaipal	kos, O'Melveny & Myer	s LLP, 700 Louisiana		
LLC, 1401 Lavaca St	., # 1214, Austin, Te	xas 78701; 512-661-	1228	St., Suite 2900,	Houston, Texas, 77002-2	2796; 832-254-1500		
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" i	n One Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff		
I U.S. Government	3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases Only)		and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF		
Plaintiff	(U.S. Governmen	t Not a Party)	Citiz	_	I Incorporated or Pr	incipal Place 4 4		
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizens	hip of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State	2 Incorporated and I of Business In A			
				en or Subject of a oreign Country	3 Soreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box (Only)			Click here for: Nature of S	Suit Code Descriptions.		
CONTRACT		ORTS		ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES		
110 Insurance 120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury -	¥ ∏62	25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal	375 False Claims Act		
130 Miller Act	315 Airplane Product	Product Liability	<u></u>	O Other	28 USC 157	376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))		
140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	367 Health Care/			INTELLECTUAL	400 State Reapportionment		
Life 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	Pharmaceutical Personal Injury			PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights	410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking		
151 Medicare Act	330 Federal Employers'	Product Liability			830 Patent	450 Commerce		
152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability 340 Marine	368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product			835 Patent - Abbreviated	460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and		
(Excludes Veterans)	345 Marine Product	Liability			New Drug Application 840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations		
153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL PROPERT 370 Other Fraud		LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards	880 Defend Trade Secrets	480 Consumer Credit		
160 Stockholders' Suits	355 Motor Vehicle	371 Truth in Lending	H''	Act	Act of 2016	(15 USC 1681 or 1692) 485 Telephone Consumer		
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	380 Other Personal	72	20 Labor/Management	SOCIAL SECURITY	Protection Act		
195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	360 Other Personal Injury	Property Damage 385 Property Damage	_ 	Relations 10 Railway Labor Act	861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923)	490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/		
	362 Personal Injury -	Product Liability	_	I Family and Medical	863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	Exchange		
REAL PROPERTY	Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITION	70	Leave Act O Other Labor Litigation	864 SSID Title XVI	890 Other Statutory Actions		
210 Land Condemnation	440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus:		1 Employee Retirement	865 RSI (405(g))	891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters		
220 Foreclosure	441 Voting	463 Alien Detainee		Income Security Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	895 Freedom of Information		
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land	442 Employment 443 Housing/	510 Motions to Vacate Sentence			870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	Act 896 Arbitration		
245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations	530 General			871 IRS—Third Party	899 Administrative Procedure		
290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer, w/Disabilities Employment	- 535 Death Penalty Other:		IMMIGRATION	26 USC 7609	Act/Review or Appeal of		
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities		r ∐46	2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration		Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of		
	Other 448 Education	550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition		Actions		State Statutes		
	- 440 Education	560 Civil Detaince -						
		Conditions of Confinement						
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" is	One Box Only)	Continenent			<u> </u>	<u> </u>		
□ l Original 🗖 2 Rer	noved from 3	Remanded from	4 Rein	stated or 🦳 5 Transfe	rred from β 6 Multidistri	ict 8 Multidistrict		
Proceeding Sta	te Court	Appellate Court	Reor	pened Anothe specific	r District Litigation Transfer	- Litigation - Direct File		
·	Cite the U.S. Civil St	atute under which you are	e filing (Direct Fite		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	28 U.S.C. § 1332		- ········	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of c				<u> </u>			
VII. REQUESTED IN					rsonal injury and seeks to recover			
COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE	S IS A CLASS ACTION 23, F.R.Cv.P.		EMAND \$ 0,000,000.00	JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: Yes No		
VIII. RELATED CASE								
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER			
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATT	ORNEY (OF RECORD				
10/09/2024		/s/ John V. Ana	aipako	3				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY								
RECEIPT#AN	10UNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JUI	OGE		